

1 Amendments to the claims

2 The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of
3 claims in the application:

4
5 1. (Currently Amended) A method of regionalizing a manufactured device
6 and consumable items utilized by the device, the device having an associated
7 memory and the consumable items each having an information retaining
8 mechanism, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

9 [[a)] for each consumable item distributed within a region, pre-configuring the
10 information retaining mechanism therein with region identification information that in
11 a manner which uniquely identifies the region;

12 [[b)] installing in the device a consumable item having an information
13 retaining mechanism pre-configured for the region;

14 [[c)] transferring the region identification information from the consumable
15 item information retaining mechanism to the memory associated with the device and
16 storing the region identification information therein; [[and]]

17 [[d)] if the device is in a non-regionalized condition, permanently configuring
18 the device in a regionalized condition based on the ~~transferred~~ region identification
19 information stored in the memory; and

20 once the device is in the regionalized condition, prohibiting the device from
21 consuming a material supplied by a subsequently installed consumable item that is
22 not pre-configured for use in the region.

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24 2. (Original) The method of regionalizing a manufactured device and
25 consumable items utilized by the device of Claim 1, wherein the memory associated
with the device is an electronic memory within the device.

1 3. (Currently Amended) The method of regionalizing a manufactured
2 device and consumable items utilized by the device of Claim 2, wherein the
3 information retaining mechanism of each of the consumable items is an electronic
4 memory, ~~the step of configuring the information retaining mechanism in a manner~~
5 ~~which uniquely identifies the region comprises writing the region identification~~
6 ~~information to the electronic memory, and the step of~~ and transferring the region
7 ~~identification information from the consumable item to the electronic memory within~~
8 ~~the device~~ comprises electronically reading the information from the electronic
9 memory of the consumable item and electronically writing the region identification
10 information to the electronic memory within the device.

11 4. (Currently Amended) The method of regionalizing a manufactured
12 device and consumable items utilized by the device of Claim 3, wherein the device
13 further has an associated wireless communications link in data communication with
14 the associated memory and the consumable items each further comprise a wireless
15 communications link in data communication with the electronic memory, and
16 electronically reading the region identification information from the electronic memory
17 of the consumable is accomplished over the wireless links.

18 5-6. (Canceled).

19 7. (Original) The method of regionalizing a manufactured device and
20 consumable items utilized by the device of Claim 1, wherein the device further
21 comprises a printer and the consumable items further comprise printer consumables.

22 8. (Original) The method of regionalizing a manufactured device and
23 consumable items utilized by the device of Claim 7, wherein the printer is an ink jet
24 printer and the printer consumables are ink jet cartridges.

25 9-11. (Canceled)

1 12. (Currently Amended) A method of regionalizing a manufactured device
2 and consumable items utilized by the device, the device having an associated
3 memory and the consumable items each having an information retaining
4 mechanism, the method comprising the steps of:

5 a) for each consumable item distributed within a region, pre-configuring the
6 information retaining mechanism with region identification information that in a
7 ~~manner which~~ uniquely identifies the region;

8 b) installing in the device a consumable item having an information retaining
9 mechanism pre-configured for the region;

10 c) transferring the region identification information from the consumable item
11 information retaining mechanism to the memory associated with the device and
12 storing the region identification information therein

13 d) if the device is in a non-regionalized condition, then permanently
14 configuring the device in a regionalized condition based on the transferred region
15 identification information stored in the memory; and

16 for each subsequently installed consumable item ~~installed in the device,~~

17 e) testing the information retaining mechanism of the subsequently installed
18 consumable item to determine the pre-configured region identification information
19 contained therein;

20 f) comparing the pre-configured region identification information of the
21 subsequently installed consumable with the region identification stored in memory,
22 and

23 g) if the region identifications do not match, declining the subsequently
24 installed consumable.

25 13. (Original) The method of regionalizing a manufactured device and
consumable items utilized by the device of Claim 12, wherein the memory
associated with the device is an electronic memory within the device.

1 14. (Currently Amended) The method of regionalizing a manufactured
2 device and consumable items utilized by the device of Claim 13, wherein the
3 information retaining mechanism of each of the consumable items is an electronic
4 memory, ~~the step of configuring the information retaining mechanism in a manner~~
5 ~~which uniquely identifies the region comprises writing the region identification~~
6 ~~information to the electronic memory,~~ and the step of transferring region identification
7 information from the consumable item to the electronic memory within the device
8 comprises electronically reading the information from the electronic memory of the
9 consumable item and electronically writing the information to the electronic memory
10 within the device.

11 15. (Original) The method of regionalizing a manufactured device and
12 consumable items utilized by the device of Claim 14, wherein the device further has
13 an associated wireless communications link in data communication with the
14 associated memory and the consumable items each further comprise a wireless
15 communications link in data communication with the electronic memory; and
16 electronically reading the information from the electronic memory of the consumable
17 is accomplished over the wireless links.

18 16. (Currently Amended) The method of regionalizing a manufactured
19 device and consumable items utilized by the device of Claim 12, wherein the
20 information retaining mechanism of each of the consumable items is an electronic
21 memory, ~~the step of configuring the information retaining mechanism in a manner~~
22 ~~which uniquely identifies the region comprises writing the region identification~~
23 ~~information to the electronic memory,~~ and the step of transferring region identification
24 information from the consumable item to the electronic memory within the device
25 includes electronically reading the information from the electronic memory of the
consumable item.

1 17. (Original) The method of regionalizing a manufactured device and
2 consumable items utilized by the device of Claim 16, wherein the device further has
3 an associated wireless communications link in data communication with the
4 associated memory and the consumable items each further comprise a wireless
5 communications link in data communication with the electronic memory, and
6 electronically reading the information from the electronic memory of the consumable
is accomplished over the wireless links.

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8 18. (Original) The method of regionalizing a manufactured device and
9 consumable items utilized by the device of Claim 12, wherein the device has an
10 associated user interface allowing messages to be displayed to a user and also
11 allowing responses to be input by the user, and the step of declining the consumable
12 comprises notifying the device user of an incompatibility and requiring a specific
response to be input by the user.

13 19-51. (Canceled)
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